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RURAL DISTRICT OF FOREHOE AND HENSTEAD.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Irene B.M. Green, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.).

and the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

(G. A. J. Browne, F.S.I., M.B.E.).

for

1955.

S T A F F.

Medical Officer of Health:-

Irene B. M. Green, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector,
Meat and Foods Inspector, Shops Inspector,
and
Inspector under Petroleum Acts:-

Geoffrey A. J. Browne, F.S.I.A., M.R.S.H.

Sanitary Inspectors:-

B. G. B. South, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.H.
G. J. L. Horne, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.H.
T. A. Dawkins, M.S.I.A.

THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(Irene B.M. Green, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.)
FOR THE
RURAL DISTRICT OF FOREHOE & HENSTEAD
NORFOLK

For the Year Ended 31st December, 1955

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1955.

The estimated population is 24,010 compared with 23,680 in 1954, an increase of 330.

GENERAL

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	69,939
Resident population mid-year 1955 (as estimated by Registrar General)	...	...	...	...	...	...	24,010
Number of Inhabited houses (end of 1955)				...	...	...	8,300
Rateable Value (end of 1955)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£98,008
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£386

WEATHER CONDITIONS

The year began with very cold weather, heavy snow and severe frost. Apart from two short lived mild spells, wintry weather continued until the end of March, which was the coldest ever recorded since the local weather station opened in 1924.

April was mild, dry and sunny but May and June were unseasonably cold and rather wet, although the sunshine total was above the average.

Summer arrived suddenly in early July and continued with the minimum of rainfall right into September which, though less settled, was warmer and drier than usual. Very hot weather was experienced with temperatures of 84° and 85° and sunshine well above the normal amount.

October was remarkable for its rainfall, one of the heaviest ever recorded locally, 1.78 inches of rain falling in one 24 hour period.

By contrast, this was followed by the driest November on record, with warm and sunny weather which continued through December, with only mild degrees of ground frost on 16 nights.

To sum up, 1955 was remarkable for extremes, an arctic winter, a cold spring, a tropical summer and a short deluge in the autumn, followed by an unseasonably dry spell.

V I T A L S T A T I S T I C S

LIVE BIRTHS:	Total	Male	Female	Forehoe & Henstead (1955)	England & Wales (1955)	Forehoe & Henstead (1954)
Legitimate	360	175	185			
Illegitimate	8	4	4			
Total	368	179	189	15.32	15.00	15.41
STILL BIRTHS:				Rate per 1,000 live and still births.		
Legitimate	10	5	5			
Illegitimate	-	-	-			
Total	10	5	5	26.45	23.10	22.18
DEATHS:	404	217	187	Crude death rate per 1,000 population.		
				16.83	11.70	13.60
Maternal Mortality-		-	-			
Infant Mortality				Rate per 1,000 live births.		
Legitimate	4	2	2			
Illegitimate	-	-	-			
Total	4	2	2	10.87	24.90	30.13

There were 368 live births registered during the year and 404 deaths from all causes. The birth rate was 15.32 compared with 15.41 in 1954 and the crude death rate was 16.83 compared with 13.6 in 1954. 40% of all deaths recorded occurred in hospitals in the district.

Comparability factors applied to these figures give adjusted rates for comparison with England and Wales and with other districts. This adjusted birth rate is 16.55 compared with 15.0 for the whole country and the adjusted death rate 13.63 compared with 11.7 for England and Wales.

Again, for comparable groups, rather more than the expected number of babies were born and a slightly larger number of people died during the year.

There were only four infant deaths giving a record infant mortality rate of 10.87 compared with 30.13 in 1954 and 24.9 for England and Wales. Two of the infants died at one month and three months respectively, from congenital defects incompatible with life, one died after an operation for a malignant tumour of the eye at 9 months, and one was premature and lived only 8 hours. As 21 premature births (including 3 still-births) were notified in the district, it is very satisfactory that all but one of these, born alive, survived. This and the record low infant mortality rate both reflect great credit on the infant welfare services and in particular on the nursing arrangements and care of young infants in hospital and in the home.

Again there were no deaths from childbirth, pregnancy or abortion nor from any notifiable disease. For the first time ever there were no deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis.

There were 14 deaths of persons between the ages of 1 and 40, only 2 being children under 15. One was a child aged 8 killed in a road accident, and the other a 4 year old who was a mental defective with gross brain damage.

Four deaths in the teenage group were a low grade defective, a drowning accident, and two cases of kidney disease. The other 8 early deaths were due to malignant disease (3), diabetes complicated by acute illness (2), heart disease (2) and chronic infection (1).

Age Groups.	Under 1	1 - 4	5 -15	16-40	41-65	66-80	81-90	over 90
Totals	4	1	1	12	69	205	89	23

It will be seen from the above table that 78% of all deaths occurred over the age of 65, 27% over the age of 80 and 5% over the age of 90. One death at Wicklewood Hospital was of a patient of 101.

The commonest causes of death were cancer and malignant disease 63 (cancer of the lung 7) and heart and circulatory disease.

Causes of Death			Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	.....	.....	-	-	-
Other forms of tuberculosis	.....	.....	-	1	1
Syphilitic disease	.....	.....	1	-	1
Diphtheria	.....	.....	-	-	-
Whooping cough	.....	.....	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	.....	.....	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	.....	.....	-	-	-
Measles	.....	.....	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	.....	.....	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	.....	.....	2	5	7
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	.....	.....	5	2	7
Malignant neoplasm, breast	.....	.....	-	6	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	.....	.....	-	2	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	.....	.....	20	21	41
Leukaemia and aleukaemia	.....	.....	-	2	2
Diabetes	.....	.....	2	7	9
Vascular lesions of nervous system	.....	.....	29	31	60
Coronary disease, angina	.....	.....	30	18	48
Hypertension with heart disease	.....	.....	4	3	7
Other heart diseases	.....	.....	46	43	89
Other circulatory disease	.....	.....	26	17	43
Influenza	.....	.....	2	1	3
Pneumonia	.....	.....	17	5	22
Bronchitis	.....	.....	2	6	8
Other diseases of respiratory system	.....	.....	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	.....	.....	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	.....	.....	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	.....	.....	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	.....	.....	4	-	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	.....	.....	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	.....	.....	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	.....	.....	14	8	22
Motor vehicle accidents	.....	.....	1	2	3
All other accidents	.....	.....	4	3	7
Suicide	.....	.....	2	1	3
Homicide and operations of war	.....	.....	-	-	-
Totals			<u>217</u>	<u>187</u>	<u>404</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Ages

Disease	0 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10-14	15-24	25 -44	45 -64	65+	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	2	5	1	2	-	-	-	10
Whooping Cough	4	7	13	1	-	-	-	-	25
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	3
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Measles	7	6	13	-	-	1	-	-	27
Pneumonia	-	1	2	1	-	2	2	1	9
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	14	15
Dysentery	4	2	20	15	8	16	1	1	67
Food Poisoning	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia) Neonatorum)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	17	18	55	19	14	21	4	17	165

There were only 165 cases of infectious disease notified during the year compared with 616 in 1954. The difference was mainly accounted for by the absence of epidemics of whooping cough and measles, which tend to occur every alternate year. There were 96 cases of other infectious disease compared with 116 in 1954.

It might, therefore, be said that there was a low prevalence of all types of infectious disease in 1955, the largest number of cases notified being those of dysentery (67).

Poliomyelitis.

Only 2 cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year, one was a boy of 9 at Hethersett in September and the other a boy of 12 from Little Melton attending Wymondham Modern Secondary School. The first case had been on an extensive holiday tour within the incubation period of the disease and may well have acquired the infection at one of the places he visited. No known case had occurred and no further cases were notified amongst his local contacts. The disease was non-paralytic and the boy made a complete recovery.

The other case followed the occurrence of several cases in the Wymondham district, where he attended school, although none of the known cases were in the same school. Unfortunately his attack was of the severe paralytic type and its severity may have been increased by great physical activity during the incubation period. There is residual paralysis and he has had prolonged treatment in an Orthopaedic Hospital.

Although the actual cases were few, there was a great deal of following-up of contacts, not only of these two but of cases notified in other districts. All contacts with any signs of malaise were advised to stay in bed and to be kept under medical supervision.

Co-operation between Medical Officers of Health of the City and other districts was excellent and greatly assisted in early contact tracing and the taking of prompt precautionary measures.

Diphtheria.

No case of diphtheria was notified during the year. The last case occurred in this district in 1950.

A high percentage of well immunised children, such as obtains at present, should ensure that this dangerous disease never returns.

Dysentery.

There were the highest number of cases of dysentery (67) ever recorded in this district. The year was remarkable for high prevalence of this disease all over the country. It is difficult to suggest a valid reason for this. Better notification is undoubtedly a factor due to a greater awareness of the disease amongst the public and general practitioners. The full facilities for the collecting of specimens readily offered by the public health department appears to be much appreciated by busy doctors in general practice. I should like to acknowledge here the excellent co-operation I have had from nearly all concerned with the treatment and control of this highly infectious and unpleasant disease.

Morley Outbreak.

There was a large outbreak at Morley in January and February with 10 cases at Wymondham College and 31 cases affecting 8 households in Morley village during these 2 months.

Wymondham College.

The College outbreak was greatly complicated by a widespread mild influenza epidemic which affected scholars and staff at the same time. At one time there were about 150 persons ill with influenza and the nursing staff had to be augmented to cope with the situation.

In view of this, arrangements were made to admit all known cases of Sonne Dysentery to the Isolation Hospital at Dereham. This greatly eased the nursing position and no further cases of dysentery were reported in the College itself. At the same time the village of Morley, where there was also widespread infection, was put out of bounds for College scholars and staff and this doubtless helped by cutting off yet another source of infection.

Food Poisoning.

Only 4 cases of food poisoning were notified during 1955 affecting three households and all were due to salmonella typhimurium. One family obviously acquired the infection while on holiday in another district, the patient being a child of 4 and her mother becoming a symptomless carrier. Both cleared up after treatment.

The second case was a baby of 8 months in a large household of 13 persons. She was admitted to the Isolation Hospital and no other member of the family was infected. It is extremely difficult to say how very young children acquire this infection, and the only common factor in several cases in recent years has been that ducks and poultry are kept. It may be that adults and older children with hands contaminated with birds' excreta, play with the baby without first washing their hands and that infants are specially susceptible to this organism, which is a very frequent inhabitant of the bowel of ducks and poultry. It is a risk which country mothers should always bear in mind.

The third case was an elderly woman, the only case in a household of five. The source of her infection was never discovered and she recovered after treatment in the Norwich Isolation Hospital.

Epidemic Vomiting.

Barford school reported a sudden epidemic of vomiting at the end of September. The sickness only lasted one day and the illness 24 to 36 hours. The attacks all happened at midday or early afternoon and affected children who went home to dinner as well as those who stayed at school. Full investigations failed to discover a cause and all specimens examined were negative. It was, therefore, assumed to be a virus disease known as epidemic or winter vomiting.

All the sufferers returned to school very soon, completely recovered.

General.

It cannot be repeated too often that all diseases such as dysentery, food-poisoning and poliomyelitis, which are known to be spread by hands contaminated with infected excreta, are wholly or mainly preventable by good toilet hygiene. Hands should be washed after using the closet, before eating and before handling other people's food.

Washing facilities must be handy and accessible, otherwise people will not bother to use them. Housewives have a great responsibility in this matter, as have teachers, cooks, managers of offices, workshops and businesses. A little care will save much illness and loss of working time, with consequent financial loss to all concerned.

In addition, general advice about toilet hygiene and careful handwashing was given through the College staff and vigorous disinfection was regularly carried out throughout the premises.

Considering the difficulties of the circumstances with so many in bed with influenza, the fact that a highly infectious disease, like dysentery, could be controlled and prevented from spreading, reflects very great credit on all concerned. I should like to congratulate the Medical Officer and staff of the College on a first class piece of preventive medicine and to thank the Dereham Isolation Hospital for ready co-operation in admitting even cases where dysentery was only suspected.

Morley Village.

Apart from the College outbreak, Morley village was heavily infected, 31 cases being notified from 8 households between January 18th. and March 29th. A feature of the outbreak was the heavy infection found in big families:-

8 out of 10)	
6 out of 8	)	positive in one household.
4 out of 6)	
4 out of 6)	

Smaller family units seemed more able to keep the infection confined to the first infected member. It is obviously more difficult to control infection in a house where a large number of people use the same, often old fashioned, closet.

Some cases cleared up with one course of treatment, others took much longer and in the largest family of 10 it was fully 2 months before the last member had negative results.

Rest of District. The other 15 cases were scattered over the district:-

Costessey	6 cases	Affecting 4 households.
Colton	1 case)
Deopham	1 case	) Affecting one household
Hingham	5 cases	) in each parish.
Kirby Bedon	1 case)
Wrampingham	1 case)

The general increased prevalence of this disease died down in the second quarter of the year and only one isolated case was notified in May. The district was entirely clear until December when 11 cases were notified.

The work entailed in following-up these cases and collecting specimens from them is very great, and I should like to thank the Sanitary Inspectors for the prompt and efficient way they dealt with the matter.

GENERAL SICKNESS

The weekly returns of new sickness claims made to the Offices of the Ministry of National Insurance are a useful guide to the general rates of illness in the population. They are specially useful when there is a large and sudden epidemic of influenza or other respiratory illness.

In 1955, the first week shewed a phenomenal rise in sickness claims, most marked at the Norwich Office, where from a figure of 300 in the last week of 1954 they rose to 1,350 by 3rd. January. The other Offices shewed the same trend but the figures were somewhat lower. After two weeks the number of claims fell fairly steeply and by the 8th. February was down to about double the December figure. By April the number had returned to normal for the time of the year.

The epidemic was due to a respiratory infection and a certain amount of true influenza virus B which causes the less serious form of the disease, was isolated from a certain number of cases. A few cases of pneumonia occurred but not nearly as many as might have been expected from such a large outbreak, particularly in view of the very severe winter weather when the epidemic was at its height.

In most cases the disease appears to have been mild, recovery rapid, and convalescence much less prolonged than after the usual influenza attacks.

For the rest of the year, the number of claims rose and fell but no other marked fluctuation was noted.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives the ages and sex incidence during the year:-

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary.		Non. Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non. Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 - 15	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 - 25	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
26 - 35	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
36 - 45	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
46 - 55	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
56 - 65	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	9	4	1	-	-	-	-	1

Cases on Register at 31st. December, 1955:-

	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Total	
	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955
Male	62	70	20	21	82	91
Female	42	42	17	18	59	60
	104	112	37	39	141	151

There were 151 cases on the register compared with 141 at the end of 1954. 13 new pulmonary cases and 1 non-pulmonary case were notified during the year. Of the 9 new male cases, 4 were over 35 years of age.

There were no deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis during the year for the first time ever in the district.

Incidence.

Area	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
		Rate		Rate
County of Norfolk	153	0.41	36	0.095
Forehoe & Henstead	13	0.54	1	0.04

It will be seen that the incidence of pulmonary disease was a little above the average for the whole county.

Mortality.

Area	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
		Rate		Rate
County of Norfolk	24	0.06	8	0.021
Forehoe & Henstead	-	-	1	0.04
England & Wales	5,838	0.13	655	0.015

Diagnosis.

The Mass Miniature Radiography Unit was operating in Norwich during the early part of the year and although the figures for this district alone are not available, those for the total examined and county residents are given below, by the courtesy of the Medical Director.

				Active cases found.	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female.
County residents	5,095	4,510	9,605	-	5
Total examined	14,331	11,777	26,108	8	11

Treatment.

Admissions to Sanatoria and Hospitals:-

	Male	Female	Total
1952	12	10	22
1953	16	9	25
1954	11	11	22
1955	9	6	15

As there were only 13 new cases notified during the year and 15 admissions to hospital, it would appear that hospital accommodation is adequate in this area. The average length of stay in hospital was 6 months.

Prevention.

B.C.G. Vaccination for the County of Norfolk:-

	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
Contacts of known cases	253	329	404 ⁺	151	-
School Leavers	713	190	-	291	-
Other negative reactors	-	-	-	35	-
Total	966	519	404	477	314

+ includes school leavers.

All contacts of known cases were tuberculin tested and negative reactors offered B.C.G. Vaccination, and this was accepted in almost all cases.

This procedure was again offered to school leavers at Costessey Modern Secondary School with the following results:-

	1955	Percentage.	1954	Percentage.
+ Number eligible	103		93	
" accepted	83 (81)	80%	68 (64)	72.9%
" positive	16	19.75%	10	15.6%
" negative	65	80.25%	54	84.4%
" vaccinated B.C.G.	62		54	

+ (No. eligible means all pupils in their 14th. year in attendance minus those who had already been tested and treated as contacts of cases).

(Figure in brackets means actual number present and tested).

Comment.

The homes of all positive reactors were visited by a health visitor, careful histories taken of any known contacts with tuberculosis, and invitations given for all members of the household to attend the Chest Clinic for X-Ray examination.

The negative reactors were all given B.C.G. Vaccination and tested 6 weeks later to ensure that they had been converted to positive.

The acceptance rate was most encouraging and compares favourably with last year, and with experience at other schools in the County. Reactions were very slight in most cases and no time was lost from school because of vaccination.

The recent Medical Research Council report shows clearly that considerable protection is afforded to young people by B.C.G. Vaccination and suggests that this immunity may be much more lasting than had at first been thought. There is a real reduced incidence of active disease amongst the vaccinated during the years after leaving school.

It is greatly hoped, therefore, that this protection will be offered to all school leavers at an early date.

F O O D & D R U G S A C T, 1938 - 48 M I L K & D A I R I E S R E G U L A T I O N S, 1949

The milk from two herds was found to be infected with tuberculosis. Restriction Notices were not necessary in either case as all the milk was, very fortunately, already being pasteurised.

One animal in each herd was found to be suffering from tuberculosis on veterinary inspection and both were seized and slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

Table shewing infection of herds since 1950:-

	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
Tuberculosis	2	3	-	3	4 +	3
Brucella Abortus	-	3	3	1	4	2

+ One herd included in this figure had animals suffering from Brucella Abortus and Tuberculosis.

A N T H R A X O R D E R 1938

Although two Form "A" restriction notices were received during the year, in neither case was the diagnosis confirmed. This is the first time for many years that no case of Anthrax has been notified in the district.

Table shewing confirmed cases since 1952:-

	1955	1954	1953	1952
Cattle	-	-	1	1
Mink	-	-	1	-
Pigs	-	1	1	8

H O U S I N G

Waiting List.

No. of applicants at 31st. December, 1954	584
No. of applicants at 31st. December, 1955	420

Analysis of Waiting List.

Small Unit Families	....	....	339
Large Unit Families	....	....	81

Note: Small unit families are those suitable for one or two bedroomed bungalows and consist largely of married couples with one child or two children of the same sex. Large unit families mainly represent those with more than two children, or two children over eight years of age of opposite sex.

Agricultural Worker	....	....	79
Others	....	....	341

Local Authority Houses.

Position at 31st. December, 1955

Pre-war	....	....	842
Post-war	....	....	840
		Total	1682

Houses erected during 1955

By Council	....	....	56
By Private building	....	....	207
		Total	263

Ex-Government Camps

Number of families occupying these camps:

At 31st. December, 1954	....	....	172
At 31st. December, 1955	....	....	138

Total number of huts converted into dwellings at 31st. December, 1955	172
---	-----

Total number of applicants housed in camps from waiting list during 1955	32
--	----

Number of families occupying requisitioned property at 31st. December, 1955	Nil
---	-----

There has been a reduction of 164 in the number of applicants on the waiting list for Council Houses. The waiting list is now the shortest since the war. 56 new Council Houses were completed during the year compared with 52 in 1954 and 130 in 1953. Private building increased considerably in the last 3 years, the figures being 109 in 1953, 172 in 1954 and 207 in 1955. This means that 263 new units of accommodation were erected during the year, sufficient for about 900 persons.

There were 8,300 inhabited houses at the end of the year and 1,682 of these were owned by the Council. This reduces the percentage of families who are Council tenants from 22% in 1954 to 20% in 1955. There has been a reduction of 34 in the number of families housed in hutments. All still living there appear as applicants on the Council's waiting list for permanent houses. It is greatly hoped that by my next Annual Report I shall be able to record an even greater reduction in the number of these sub-standard dwellings still being occupied.

HOUSING ACT, 1949, SECTION 20 - IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Grants in connection with 69 dwellings were approved during the year compared with 27 in 1954.

These 69 dwellings consisted of the following:-

Owner/occupiers	....	....	43
Agricultural tied cottages	....	....	13
For normal letting	....	....	13
Total			69

The majority of these cases were concerned with the provision of modern amenities and compared with last year the figures shew an increase in the number of properties for letting.

PRE-WAR COUNCIL HOUSES.

During the year under review, the comprehensive scheme approved in 1954 for bringing pre-war Council houses up to the accepted modern standard was put into operation.

Owing to delays in providing mains water supplies and sewage disposal schemes it was decided not to carry out, as the first priority, the provision of piped water and drainage to pre-war houses. Nevertheless, a scheme for providing water, baths, drainage to 6 houses in Newton Flotman was started and completed and the Council gave instructions for schemes to be prepared for about 20 more houses for execution in 1956.

The main improvement work to pre-war houses during 1955 was, as fore-shadowed in my 1954 report, the installation of extra electric lighting points, power points and cooker control units. During the year, contracts were let for this type to be carried out in 146 houses, and tenders invited for doing the work in another 187 houses.

During the year also a start was made on improving the road accesses to pre-war houses and estates, and the roads on 6 estates were re-made to the standard of the Highway Authority. This type of work will also be continued during the next year.

It is unfortunate that it should have been impossible to provide modern amenities in more than 6 Council houses when 69 private dwellings have been improved during the same period. I sincerely hope that this work will be accelerated during 1956. The housewife, in particular, is handicapped by lack of modern conveniences and her dissatisfaction may well be a potent factor in the family moving from a rural area into the town.

HOUSING SURVEY.

During 1955, 8 parishes were surveyed and 549 houses were inspected and placed in the following categories:-

	Categories.					Total
	I	II	III	IV	V	
Bawburgh	3	23	26	-	7	59
Colney	9	15	2	-	-	26
Little Melton	9	20	21	-	13	63
Surlingham	44	33	17	6	3	103
Rockland St. Mary	23	23	30	2	10	88
Bramerton	25	22	7	-	3	57
Kirby Bedon	27	18	9	4	5	63
Poringland	63	15	10	1	1	90
Totals	203	169	122	13	42 ⁺	549

+ unfit for human habitation, 7.6% of properties surveyed. The 356 Council properties in the same parishes were not included in the survey.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

Condemned property:-

Number of houses still standing	....	98
Number of houses occupied	....	49
Number of houses subject to Undertakings		10
Number of houses subject to Undertakings occupied.		3
Number of houses demolished	....	4

Norwich Corporation Statutory Area.

Under guarantee by the Council, the Norwich Corporation laid water mains to serve the parish of Great Melton. All parishes within the Corporation's Statutory water area are now served.

District Water Supply.

No mains were laid by the Council during the year. Supply schemes were prepared ready for submission to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, as follows:-

- (1) Hethel, Braconash and Wreningham
- (2) Deopham, Morley and re-improvement of supply to Hingham.
- (3) Deopham.

The Wymondham Urban District Council have received approval for their Spooner Row water supply scheme. The main for this supply passes through Morley, and by agreement with the Council a water supply will be afforded by this main to the properties in Morley along the route of the main.

Kimberley.

The water supply scheme for this parish was completed during the year and 12 domestic and 4 farm connections to the mains were made.

S E W E R A G E

Costessey.

The Ministry's approval was obtained this year for Costessey sewerage, Parts 2 and 3, to be carried out consecutively. Part 2 includes sewers at part of Dereham Road, Jerningham Road and Grove Avenue, which can be drained by gravity to the sewage disposal works, and extensions to the sludge drying beds at the works. A contract for this work has been let. Part 3 comprises sewers in the remainder of the parish, together with necessary pumping stations, rising mains and extensions to the disposal works.

Poringland.

Approval was also obtained for Poringland Part 1 sewerage scheme, which provides for sewerage the Howe Lane to Shotesham Road area, and the construction of the sewage disposal works at Dove Lane.

Hingham.

Work was commenced on the Hingham closet conversions scheme in which 115 water closets will be installed by the Council under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936 in substitution of existing earth closets.

F A C T O R I E S A C T S, 1937 & 1948

<u>Premises.</u>	Number on Register	Inspections.	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sect:1, 2, 3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	29	16	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	80	14	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sect:7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	3	5	-	-
Totals	112	35	-	-

Outwork.

Nature of work.	No.of outworkers in August list required by Section 110.	No.of instances of work in un- wholesome premises.
Wearing apparel, making etc.	20	-
The making of boxes or other receptacles made wholly or partially of paper.	1	-
Brush making	1	-
Cosaques, Christmas Crackers, Christmas Stockings etc.	7	-
Totals	29	-

S O C I A L H E A L T H

Two new Old Peoples' Clubs were started in 1955, Marlingford and Easton, and both have been very successful, fulfilling a long felt need.

There are now 11 Clubs in the district all holding regular weekly meetings and a comprehensive list of these follows with times and places of meetings:-

Parish	Meeting Place	Day and time of Meeting.	
New Costessey	Scouts Hut	Thursday	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Old Costessey	Parish Room	Thursday	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Deopham	Church Room	Tuesday	2.15 - 4.30 p.m.
Easton	Church Room	Wednesday	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Hethersett	Village Hall	Wednesday	2.30 - 5.0 p.m.
Hingham	Lincoln Hall	Thursday	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Marlingford	Village Hall	Thursday	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Poringland	Village Hall	Thursday	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Saxlingham	Village Hall	Thursday	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Trowse	Church Room	Thursday	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Wicklewood	Village Hall	Wednesday	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.

It has not yet been possible to start Clubs in Rockland St. Mary and Wreningham, although I am sure that there are sufficient elderly people in both parishes who would appreciate such facilities. I still hope to record the opening of one or both of them in a subsequent report.

These Clubs are the best form of preventive medicine for the older age groups and the mental and physical activity encouraged by them plays a real part in keeping infirmity at bay. Mentally alert and physically active old people do not often occupy chronic sick beds.

C O U N T Y S E R V I C E S

Infant Welfare Services.

The County Council Infant Welfare Centres are held at the following times and places:-

Centre	Where Held	Day of Month	
New Costessey	Methodist Hall	Last Tuesday)
Old Costessey	Parish Hall	Second & Last Tuesday	) Medical
Hethel	The School	Second Thursday	) Officer
Hethersett	Methodist School Room	Third Tuesday	) attends
Hingham	Lincoln Hall	Second Wednesday	) regularly
Stoke Holy Cross	Village Hall	Third Tuesday)
Barnham Broom	Village Hall	First Thursday)
Cringleford	Maycrete Hall	Last Thursday)
Easton	Church Room	Third Monday	) Medical
Kirby Bedon	Parish Room	Second Monday	) Officer
Morley	Village Hall	Third Tuesday	) attends
Mulbarton	Wingfield Hall	First Wednesday	) occasion-
Poringland	Parish Hall	First Tuesday	) ally.
Rockland St. Mary	Margaret Mack Hall	Last Monday)
Saxlingham	Village Hall	Second Monday)
Shotesham	Trinity Hall	Second Wednesday)

All Centres are held from 2 to 4 p.m. It was found that, with the rapid development in the parish, there was a great demand for a new centre to serve the mothers living in New Costessey.

Premises were found in Stafford Avenue and the centre was opened there in November. A Medical Officer attends regularly.

General Welfare Services.

Headquarters: Local Health Office, Area 4,
Aspland Road,
Riverside Road,
NORWICH.

The County Welfare Officers continue to provide general services throughout the district and in addition to Headquarters there are the following contact points where the public can obtain advice:-

Welfare Officer
attends.

Costessey
C/O Mrs. E. Wiseman,
106 Norwich Road. Monday 2.30 - 3.30 p.m.

Hingham
C/O Mrs. Rosbrook,
Bell Corner Wednesday 11.0 - 12 noon.

G E N E R A L S U R V E Y

The health of the district has been very good during the year in spite of a specially severe winter. The only widespread epidemic was mild influenza in the first quarter of the year, with the minimum of complications.

The infant mortality rate reached a new low record figure and for the first time there were no deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis.

The main need of the community is the early replacement of slum property and the provision of modern amenities in the pre-war Council houses.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued support and to record my appreciation of the ready and efficient co-operation of the staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

IRENE B. M. GREEN M.D., B.S., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1955.

Before dealing with the main sections of public health work I would like to mention that as from 1st. April, the department ceased to be responsible for work in connection with Building Bye-law and Town and Country Planning Acts. This section being taken over by the newly formed Engineer & Surveyor's Department.

The only alteration in staff as a result of this change-over was that Mr. J. Erasmus was transferred to the Engineer and Surveyor's Department. I would like to record my appreciation and thanks for his loyal service while under my supervision.

I must record also that the Inspectorial Staff was increased to four by the appointment in April of Mr. T. A. Dawkins, from Nottingham Corporation.

I have also to mention that as a result of re-organisation at the Council's Maintenance Depot and Store, a foreman was appointed to the Public Health Department for the purpose of supervising public health services, stores and maintenance of vehicles. At the same time the Public Health Department became responsible for the maintenance of all the Council's vehicles.

To sum up, the Public Health Department is now responsible for all the normal duties connected with Public Health, together with Meat and Food Inspection, Petroleum Acts and Housing Improvement Grant Schemes.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS: The following is a summary of the main inspections and visits and general office duties carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Housing Acts	....	....	....	427
Public Health Acts	....	....	....	268
Infectious disease	....	....	....	490
Fumigations	....	....	....	10
Disinfestations	....	....	....	12
Moveable dwellings	....	....	....	54
Water supplies	....	....	....	113
Slaughterhouse & Knacker's Yard			....	15
Meat and Other Foods	....	....	....	1598
Shop & Ice Cream Premises		....	....	28
Dairies and Cowsheds	....	....	....	13
Drainage and Sewerage	....	....	....	49
Refuse & Night Soil Collection	....		....	133
Cesspool Emptying	....	....	....	35
Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants			....	330
Building Bye-laws & Town & Country Planning Acts.		....	....	189
Petroleum	....	....	....	25
Miscellaneous & Office Appointments			....	406
Total				4195

W A T E R S U P P L Y

Further progress has been made towards the ultimate aim of a mains supply to all parishes in the district and details are given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health. There are now 34 parishes of the district total of 42, that have a piped water supply available to most dwellings.

The general source of water supply is, therefore, derived from mains, either from the Norwich Corporation whose statutory area extends well into the district, or from water from deep boreholes controlled by the Wymondham U.D.C., and the District Council. In addition, the parish of Ketteringham has a large proportion of the properties served from a private source of the Duke of Westminster's Estate.

During the year no serious pollution of public supplies has arisen and the water is not likely to exert plumbo solvent action.

Those properties not served by a mains supply, derive their water from shallow wells in most cases.

As a result of samples taken in The Green area in the parish of Runhall, it was found that several wells were polluted. It was recommended that the Council should extend a piped supply to that part of the parish from the bore at the Council Estate nearby, and this scheme has been approved in principle by the Council.

During the year 57 samples were taken either as a result of complaint or suspicion as to the purity of the water and the following table gives the details:-

	Fit	Doubtful	Unfit	Total
Combined Chemical and Bacteriological	7	-	3	10
Bacteriological only	19	-	28	47
Chemical only	-	-	-	-
	<hr/> 26	<hr/> -	<hr/> 31	<hr/> 57

The Engineer and Surveyor is responsible for the supervision and maintenance of mains water schemes and the Council's Pumping installations.

S E W E R A G E

As in the case of mains water supplies, the Engineer and Surveyor is the responsible Officer in connection with sewerage schemes and details of progress during the year are also shewn in the report of the Medical Officer of Health. It remains, therefore, for me to comment on the matters relating to the public health aspect of sewer ditches etc. No progress has been made regarding the abatement of the nuisance at Saxlingham and although the watercourse which, in fact, is a sewer ditch, was cleaned out during the year, the nuisance was only temporarily abated. Whilst it is realised that the financial aspect is the reason for the delay in any action being taken to permanently abate the nuisance, one wonders how many years must pass before such an important public health problem is tackled.

At Hethersett, complaints were received of the unsatisfactory condition of ditches which had developed over the course of the years, into sewer ditches, in the Lynch Green and Queens Road areas. After a survey the Council agreed to carry out cleansing work. No further serious trouble developed in the Canns Lane area. The Council's Sewage Disposal Works did not give rise to any serious nuisance during the year, although it became obvious that the overloaded Costessey

Disposal Works would have to be enlarged as soon as possible to deal properly with the increasing amount of sewage.

NIGHT SOIL COLLECTION

This scheme continued to function satisfactorily on similar lines to the previous year. Pail closet contents were emptied once weekly from properties in the parishes of Bixley, Costessey, Cringleford, Hethersett, Hingham, Mulbarton, Poringland and Trowse Newton. It should be borne in mind, of course, that in no parish was there a complete scheme. In the case of Hingham, the number of pails emptied will gradually decrease as the connections to the sewer are made.

One cesspool emptier with night soil attachment operated by two men carried out the work and no difficulties arose as to disposal.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

The following changes took place in connection with this service. As from 1st. April the Estates Department took over the control of one cesspool emptier and driver and became responsible for all cesspool emptying from Council owned properties. The remaining two vehicles continued on lines similar to previous years for the emptying of cesspools from privately owned properties.

The charges were revised as follows:-

15/- per visit for one load and 10/- for each additional load or part load.

The following details shew the scope of work carried out by the vehicles under my control and includes the first three months of the year when Council owned properties were dealt with by the Public Health Department:-

No. of Visits	....	....	....	1013
(a) Private	....	....	....	851
(b) Council	....	....	....	132
(c) Outside District		....	....	30
No. of Loads	....	....	....	1843
(a) Private	....	....	....	1222
(b) Council	....	....	....	577
(c) Outside District		....	....	44

The disposal of cesspool contents takes place mainly on agricultural land but at certain times of the year this becomes difficult and it is necessary to convey contents to the nearest suitable sewer point.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Collections continued as for the previous year but in September the Scammell vehicle which was the original vehicle purchased by the Council, became unfit for further use and was eventually disposed of at scrap value.

The loss of this vehicle was a serious one and placed an added burden on the three remaining vehicles. Not only did the Scammell's normal rounds have to be undertaken by the remaining vehicles, but there was no replacement vehicle available in the event of breakdowns or servicing. The result of this shortage of vehicles meant that the already lengthening space between collections became more serious and only a small percentage of the properties in the District were able to be served on a weekly basis. It is hoped that the Council will be able to replace the redundant vehicle as soon as possible, despite the restrictions on capital expenditure. Controlled disposal of refuse continued at the Council's tips at Hackford and Ketteringham, and in addition to these two main disposal points, permission to tip in privately owned pits at Bowthorpe and Poringland was obtained. The following is a summary of the year's work:-

Number of inhabited dwellings				
in the district	....	....	....	8300
Number of dwellings served	....	....	....	7950
No. of loads collected	....	....	....	1144
Approximate tonnage	....	....	....	4004

Salvage: It was still possible to salvage certain materials and the following table shews the return for the year:-

	Tons. Cwts. Qrs. Lbs.			
Mixed waste paper	2	3	2	0
Cardboard	2	8	0	0
Newspapers & Magazines	11	10	3	0
Mixed Rags	1	3	0	27
Wool			2	15
Aluminium		2	1	3
Brass		1	0	17
Mixed Iron	1	8	2	22
<hr/>				
Total	-	18	18	1 0
<hr/>				

Total value of salvage sold - £160: 5: 2

H O U S I N G

The survey of dwellings for the purpose of classification in accordance with their condition continued during the year, but in the autumn the Council decided to deal with those parishes in which the survey had been completed rather than complete the whole of the district. Sufficient information was obtained from the 15 parishes which had been surveyed by the middle of the year for the required Return to be submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government estimating the total number of dwellings which would be dealt with under the demolition and clearance section of the Housing Act. The Council decided to place the responsibility of making decisions regarding properties to be the subject of demolition proceedings in the hands of a small Sub-Committee, to be known as the Public Health (Slum Clearance and Improvement Grants) Sub-Committee, and the first outside inspections took place in the latter part of the year.

Excluding Council owned dwellings, a total of 991 dwellings have been surveyed since 1954, and the following table gives details of the numbers under each category:-

1.	Dwellings fit	.....	443
2.	Dwellings with minor defects only	.....	169
3.	Dwellings in need of substantial repair.	.....	204
4.	Dwellings in need of alterations and/or improvements	.....	89
5.	Dwellings for demolition	.....	86
Total			991

The following formal action was taken in connection with properties in need of repair:-

Preliminary Notices	.....	33
Statutory Notices	.....	1
Demolition Orders	.....	-
Undertakings accepted	.....	-

HOUSING ACT, 1949 - SECTION 20 - HOUSING IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The number of applications received for assistance towards improvements and the modernisation of dwellings shewed a considerable increase as compared with 1954, and of the 69 dwellings for which approval was given, 26 were either agricultural cottages or for normal letting. The remaining 43 dwellings were owned and occupied by the applicants.

Whilst the Council must, naturally, watch the financial aspect of this scheme, one cannot help being still disappointed in the small

number of rural dwellings which are being improved for letting purposes. I am of opinion that this is due in the main to two reasons:-
 (a) the necessity for a dwelling to be completely modernised and (b) the restriction on the letting value. Both are important factors and ones which I consider cannot be relaxed at the present time, although it seems a pity that some schemes cannot be thought out which would enable rural properties lacking in all the essential amenities, to be modernised stage by stage over a period of years.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

9 Applications were received during the year and in no case did they refer to the larger type of communal site. Complaints continued to be received from the Costessey area relating mainly to the caravan dwellers employed on fair grounds and who used the sites for short periods. It appeared, however, that at the end of the year the acquisition of land for a Council controlled site was a distinct possibility and this would strengthen the Council's case in taking legal action where necessary.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

This service continued on similar lines to the previous year. The full time Vermin Destroyer continued to survey the district parish by parish twice a year and carried out treatment where found necessary. He dealt also with all individual complaints.

The following is a summary of details as required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food:-

Number of inspections during the year:

(a) By Notification	....	....	....	223
(b) Otherwise	....	....	....	6332

Number of properties found to be infested:-

(a) Major infestation	....	....	....	80
(b) Minor infestation	....	....	....	1674
(c) Number of infested properties treated	..			1754

Number of "Block" control schemes carried out 22

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

The following licences were granted by the District Council:-

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS.
1949

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the special designation
"Pasteurised" 19

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

Dealer's Licence authorising the use of the special designation
"Tuberculin Tested" 13

The County Council are responsible for the issue of licences in connection with pasteurisation premises and the following licences were granted:-

Pasteurisation premises 2

The premises used as separate dairies were carried on satisfactorily during the year, but in one case it was necessary to require the owner to carry out improvements to the structure and drainage system of the premises. As in previous years very few instances arose where the district Public Health Department was asked to advise regarding drainage disposal for cowhouses. Apparently, very few premises were improved or new ones erected.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The slaughtering of livestock for human consumption continued in the 6 slaughterhouses which were licenced in 1954, when the de-control of the slaughter of animals and distribution of meat came into force. The Norwich Co-operative Society slaughterhouse at Swardeston has remained under that firm's control under the supervision of the Norwich Corporation Public Health Department staff for the purpose of meat inspection, as all animals slaughtered at these premises are for consumption outside the District Council's area.

The 5 slaughterhouses for which the District Council is responsible, have in most respects been carried on satisfactorily, although in the case of the one situate at Costessey, strenuous efforts have been made by the Parish Council to have its use discontinued on the grounds of bad siting and nuisance. A number of discussions took place in connection with this slaughterhouse and eventually it was agreed to allow certain improvements to be carried out and for it to continue until the end of the period fixed by the Ministry for all existing slaughterhouses.

Meat inspection continued during the year on the 100% basis and necessitated all members of the inspectorial staff to work outside normal working hours. The following details shew the number of animals slaughtered and the amount of meat condemned, together with the main reasons for condemnation:-

Number of animals killed:

Bulls	Cows	Bullocks	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Sows & Boars
119	407	741	306	32	1626	11,442	377

Total : 15,050 animals

Condemned meat:

			Weight		
			Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs. Lbs
Beef:					
4 Steers	(Tuberculosis)		18	2	14
2 Cows	(Tuberculosis)		11	0	20
2 Heifers	(Tuberculosis)		9	0	18
Pork:					
8 Pigs	(1 Septic Peritonitis)			3	14
	(1 Fevered)				24
	(1 Fevered & Pneumonia)			1	24
	(1 Fevered & Tuberculosis)		2	1	18
	(1 Fevered)		1	2	0
	(1 Tuberculosis)		1	1	4
	(2 Moribund)		2	1	4
4 Sows	(2 Pyaemia)		4	1	0
	(1 Septic Pleurisy)		2	1	0
	(1 Dead on Arrival)		2	1	8
Mutton:					
7 Sheep	(1 Oedematous)			1	22
	(1 Abscesses)			1	20
	(3 Emaciated & Oedematous)		1	1	4
	(1 Jaundiced)			2	2
	(1 Moribund)			3	6
Parts of Carcases and Offals condemned for various diseases			8	18	1 12
Total weight condemned:			11	18	2 18

Percentage of animals condemned for Tuberculosis:-

Bulls	Cows	Bullocks	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Sows & Boars
Nil.	0.4914	0.5390	0.6535	Nil.	Nil.	0.008	Nil.

Percentage of animals condemned for all diseases:-

Bulls	Cows	Bullocks	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Sows @ Boars
Nil.	0.4914	0.5390	0.6535	Nil.	0.4305	0.061	1.0601

In addition to the above, a number of visits were made to food shops and 284 lbs. tinned foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

All meat condemned was voluntarily surrendered and was taken to the Norwich Corporation Disposal Plant at Harford.

Knacker's Yard:

The premises at "The Paddocks", Shotesham, under the control of the Norfolk Animal Products Ltd., continued to operate under yearly licence. The number of animals slaughtered or dressed on the premises appears to be on the decrease, especially in relation to horses which amounted to not more than one a week on a number of occasions. There was no cause for serious complaint but the owners have been notified that alterations to the premises will have to be made under the new requirements contained in the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (No.2) Regulations, 1955.

G E N E R A L

As mentioned in my opening remarks, the work of the Public Health Department has, since April, reverted to those duties normally expected to be the responsibility of such a department, and matters relating to Building Bye-laws and Town Planning are now under the control of the Engineer & Surveyor's Department.

I am glad to record that work under the Improvement Grant Section of the Housing Act, 1949, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, remained with the Public Health Department, a duty which is closely connected with the general slum clearance programme of the Council.

At the end of the year the progress made in the slum clearance programme may not appear very advanced, but I think it must be realised that the whole progress of survey, Council consideration, eventual decisions and re-housing, is a slow procedure, and if approximately 100 dwellings in categories 4 and 5 can be dealt with each

year, the programme as submitted to the Ministry should not be very far behind schedule at the end of the 5 years.

The year saw the acceptance by Parliament of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, which will come into force on 1st. January, 1956.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, made under this Act will also come into operation at the same time. The Regulations are a step towards the improvement of hygiene in connection with the preparation and sale of food to the public and there will be many points which require serious thought before a satisfactory line of action is decided upon, especially for rural conditions.

The Slaughter of Livestock and the Distribution of Meat has now been the responsibility of private enterprise for well over a year, and it is now possible to assess the general position. I would say that there has been a definite improvement in the quality and condition of meat offered to the public and its freedom from disease is safeguarded in this district, as far as possible, by the fact that 100% inspection of animals slaughtered has been carried out. The condition under which animals are slaughtered and meat prepared for sale is not all that can be wished for in some of the existing slaughterhouses, but it is hoped that before very long further improvements will come out of the report which is to be submitted to Parliament by the special Commission deliberating the subject at the present time.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation and thanks to you, Mr. Chairman, the members of the Council, and in particular the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, for the interest and support given to my department, and I would like to record my sincere appreciation to the members of my staff for their continued hard work and co-operation during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

G. A. J. BROWNE, F.S.I.A., M.R.S.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Ber House,
NORWICH

